

## General

### Title

Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI): provider's mean score on the "Goals" scale.

### Source(s)

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. *Ment Health Serv Res*. 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108. [PubMed](#)

Providing care to people with severe and persistent mental illness [questionnaire]. Los Angeles (CA): Matthew Chinman, Ph.D; 2003. 9 p.

## Measure Domain

### Primary Measure Domain

#### Structure

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### Description

The Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI) measures 15 competencies needed to provide high quality care for those with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). This measure assesses the "Goals" scale on the CAI; defined as "Assists clients in acquiring the skills needed to get and keep chosen goals."

This measure is a component of a disaggregatable composite measure. The "Goals" scale is one of 15 individual CAI scales. A summary total score (summary index) of all 15 scales is calculated.

## Rationale

The quality of care for serious mental illness is frequently poor. Most practicing mental health clinicians lack sufficient specialized training, and are not well prepared to provide rehabilitation services. In the United States, over three-quarters of clinicians have a bachelor's degree or less education. Even among the small proportion of doctoral-level professionals, many have not been exposed to curricula or practicum experiences that are relevant to the care of people with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Thus, existing care is often not patient-centered because many clinicians lack important clinical competencies in the areas of empowerment and recovery that are at the heart of rehabilitation. Recent reviews find that this lack of competencies is a critical barrier to provide high quality care. Therefore, competency assessment has the potential to inform broad quality improvement efforts that affect clinician recruitment, training, feedback and profiling.

There is a critical need for measures of important domains of treatment process for SPMI. Competencies are a useful domain to assess because they emphasize the skills and values that may be less visible in a guideline or standards-based approach, but are equally important to care. Thus, the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI) is well suited to be a quality improvement tool enabling researchers, providers, and administrators to reliably and validly assess which competencies need the most attention, which improves with training, and which need further development.

A strength of the competencies included in the CAI are that they were specifically chosen to represent rehabilitation, recovery, and empowerment principles, which are aspects of care that are critical to the treatment of patients with SPMI but are often lacking in public settings. Underlying recovery-oriented care is the idea that persons can regain purpose and meaning in life while having a serious mental illness. These concepts, which tend not to be included in many treatment guidelines and standards, have proved to be important aspects of high quality care for those with SPMI.

## Primary Clinical Component

Provider competency; serious mental illness, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder; major depression

## Denominator Description

This measure applies to providers of services to those with serious mental illness (one provider at a time).

## Numerator Description

Mean scale score on "Goals" scale of the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI)

## Evidence Supporting the Measure

### Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality

A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

## Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

# Need for the Measure

Overall insufficient capacity

## Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. Ment Health Serv Res. 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108. [PubMed](#)

Corrigan PW, Steiner L, McCracken SG, Blaser B, Barr M. Strategies for disseminating evidence-based practices to staff who treat people with serious mental illness. Psychiatr Serv. 2001 Dec;52(12):1598-606. [100 references] [PubMed](#)

Hoge MA, Stayner D, Davidson L. Psychology internships in the treatment of severe mental illness: implications for training in academic medical centers. J Clin Psychol Med Settings. 2000;7:213-22.

Manderscheid RW, Henderson MJ. Mental health, United States, 2000. 2001.

Young AS, Forquer SL, Tran A, Starzynski M, Shatkin J. Identifying clinical competencies that support rehabilitation and empowerment in individuals with severe mental illness. J Behav Health Serv Res. 2000 Aug;27(3):321-33. [PubMed](#)

## State of Use of the Measure

### State of Use

Current routine use

### Current Use

Collaborative inter-organizational quality improvement

Internal quality improvement

## Application of Measure in its Current Use

### Care Setting

Ambulatory Care

Behavioral Health Care

Community Health Care

Managed Care Plans

Rehabilitation Centers

Residential Care Facilities

Rural Health Care

## Professionals Responsible for Health Care

Allied Health Personnel

Physicians

Psychologists/Non-physician Behavioral Health Clinicians

Social Workers

## Lowest Level of Health Care Delivery Addressed

Individual Clinicians

## Target Population Age

Does not apply to this measure

## Target Population Gender

Does not apply to this measure

## Stratification by Vulnerable Populations

Does not apply to this measure

# Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

## Incidence/Prevalence

Unspecified

## Association with Vulnerable Populations

See "Burden of Illness" field.

## Burden of Illness

Treatment quality for those with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression is often poor, which can lead to serious negative outcomes such as injury or death.

## Evidence for Burden of Illness

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. Ment Health Serv Res. 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108. [PubMed](#)

## Utilization

Unspecified

## Costs

Unspecified

# Institute of Medicine (IOM) Healthcare Quality Report Categories

## IOM Care Need

Living with Illness

## IOM Domain

Effectiveness

Patient-centeredness

## Data Collection for the Measure

### Case Finding

Does not apply to this measure

### Denominator Sampling Frame

Does not apply to this measure

### Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

#### Inclusions

This measure applies to providers of services to those with serious mental illness (one provider at a time).

#### Exclusions

Unspecified

### Relationship of Denominator to Numerator

Does not apply to this measure

### Denominator (Index) Event

Does not apply to this measure

## Denominator Time Window

Does not apply to this measure

## Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

### Inclusions

Mean scale score on "Goals" scale of the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI)

### Exclusions

Unspecified

## Measure Results Under Control of Health Care Professionals, Organizations and/or Policymakers

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

## Numerator Time Window

Does not apply to this measure

## Data Source

Clinician survey

## Level of Determination of Quality

Does not apply to this measure

## Pre-existing Instrument Used

Unspecified

## Computation of the Measure

### Scoring

Non-weighted Score/Composite/Scale

## Interpretation of Score

Better quality is associated with a higher score

## Allowance for Patient Factors

Does not apply to this measure

## Standard of Comparison

Internal time comparison

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

### Extent of Measure Testing

The "Goals" scale of the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI) was tested for internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha equal to 0.90) and test-retest reliability (intraclass correlation equal to 0.59). Results also support the concurrent and construct validity of the CAI.

### Evidence for Reliability/Validity Testing

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. *Ment Health Serv Res.* 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108. [PubMed](#)

## Identifying Information

### Original Title

Goals.

### Measure Collection Name

Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI)

### Submitter

Chinman, Matthew, PhD; Young, Alexander S., MD, MSHS; Veterans Administration Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) - None

### Developer

Chinman, Matthew, PhD (MIRECC); Young, Alexander S., MD, MSHS (MIRECC); Sandy Forquer (Comprehensive Neuroscience Inc.); Edward Knight (ValueOptions); Anita Miller (ValueOptions); Melissa Rowe (RAND) - Independent Author(s)

### Funding Source(s)

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) provided funding for the development of the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI) through support of Increasing the Use of Self-Help Programs and Mental Health Empowerment Competencies (# ML-580), which was made possible through a separate grant to CHCS by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Work on the CAI was also supported by ValueOptions; The Department of Veterans Affairs Desert Pacific Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC); and the UCLA-RAND-NIMH Research Center on Managed Care for Psychiatric Disorders (Grant P50 MH-54623).

# Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

Matthew Chinman, Alexander S. Young, Melissa Rowe, Sandy Forquer, Edward Knight, Anita Miller

## Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

None

## Adaptation

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## Release Date

2003 Jun

## Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

## Source(s)

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. Ment Health Serv Res. 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108. [PubMed](#)

Providing care to people with severe and persistent mental illness [questionnaire]. Los Angeles (CA): Matthew Chinman, Ph.D; 2003. 9 p.

## Measure Availability

The individual measure, "Goals," is contained in the Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI), which is published in:

Chinman M, Young AS, Rowe M, Forquer S, Knight E, Miller A. An instrument to assess competencies of providers treating severe mental illness. Ment Health Serv Res 2003 Jun;5(2):97-108.

The Competency Assessment Instrument (CAI) questionnaire is available from the [Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center \(MIRECC\) Web site](#) .

## Companion Documents

The following is available:

Young AS, Forquer SL, Tran A, Starzynski M, Shatkin J. Identifying clinical competencies that support rehabilitation and empowerment in individuals with severe mental illness. J Behav Health Serv Res 2000 Aug;27(3):321-33. An abstract of this document is available at [Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center \(MIRECC\) Web site](#) .

## NQMC Status



This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on April 14, 2004. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 19, 2004.

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